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08/659,949	06/07/98	LUDWIG	L VCDR-00/110

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LM21/1201

EXAMINER	
DINH, D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2757

16

DATE MAILED:

12/01/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

- ☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire \_\_\_\_\_ month(s), \_\_\_\_\_ days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

**Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.                 | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.       |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.     | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____   |

**Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION**

1. ☒ Claims 2-36 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.
4. ☒ Claims 2-36 are rejected.
5. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.
6. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
12. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

#### DETAILED ACTION

There is no indication under 37 CFR 1.116 to enter the unentered amendment previously filed on 05/12/98.

The following is a repeat of the office action paper #10.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

*A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --*

*(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.*

Claims 2, 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ahuja et al. US patent 5,471,318.

As per claim 2, Ahuja teaches a teleconference system, comprising:

a teleconference manager [fig.2 MR server 48] configured to manage a teleconference among a plurality of participants, wherein at least one of the participants is a multimedia service [fig.1 TV, phone, VRC, Camera] configured to provide AV signal reproduction [apparent from the use of a VCR] at a workstation of another of the participant, or receive video images and spoken audio of another participant [col.4 lines 28-49]; and

a first network [fig.1 network #10] interconnecting the workstations, over which a data conference [col.4 lines 16-25]

can be conducted, the data conference managed by the teleconference manager [fig.1 MR Server 48].

As per claim 29, Ahuja teaches a teleconferencing system, comprising:

a teleconference manager [fig.2 MR server 48], configured to manage videoconference and dataconference among a plurality of participants, each participant having a workstation [fig.2 User Workstation #12, #14];

a multimedia server [fig.2 Audio 58, Video 54, Data 50 servers], in communication with the teleconference manager [52], configured to transfer communication data, generated at the workstation of at least one preparing participant to at least one other participant during the videoconference and data conference; and

a storage medium [col.11 lines 28-35] in communication with the multimedia server, configured to receive and store the communication data.

As per claim 30, Ahuja teaches audio, video and data shared among the participant [col.8 lines 60-65, col.7 lines 10-55].

As per claim 31, Ahuja teaches storing selected audio, video and data signals [col.12 lines 36-50].

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section*

*102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

**Claims 3-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Etherphone system as disclosed by Rangan "Software Architecture for Integration of Video Services in the Etherphone System" and further in view of Maeno "Distributed Desktop Conferencing System (MERMAID) Based on Group Communication Architecture".**

As per claim 3, Rangan teaches a teleconferencing system essentially as claimed, comprising:

conference capture tools and annotation tools [p.1396 col.1 lines 39-45 "Tiogavision"].

Rangan suggested providing a multimedia mail system [p.1402 col.1 last paragraph] with captured and annotated data. It is inherent that the multimedia mail can be collaborated in real time at different location (conference call), at different time at same location (mail self-addressed to the author or the workstation), and at different time at different location (mail to another user).

Rangan does not specifically disclose a data conference tool. Maeno disclose a teleconferencing integrating data and

video conferencing. Maeno teaches data conference capture and annotation tools [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph]. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a data conference manager with Rangan's system because it would enable participants to view and process multimedia documents simultaneously with voice + video conferencing [Maeno p.0522 col.1 first paragraph].

As per claims 4, Rangan does not disclose graphical animation device for generating animated graphic images to be included in a multimedia message. It is well known in the art to have animation graphic images in multimedia document. The type of media included in a multimedia mail would have been a matter of design choice dependent on the preference of the user composing the mail message.

Maeno discloses adding annotation and handwriting can be add in real-time to the multimedia document [p. 0522 col.1 last paragraph: writing pad, mouse cursor manipulation]. These tools read on the graphical animation as claimed because the annotation and handwriting would be 'animated' on the receiver's workstation in order to display them in real-time.

As per claim 5, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 3 above.

As per claim 6, it is apparent from p.1401 col.2 that AV capture include AV images of the preparing participant and AV image of other participants.

As per claim 7, Rangan teaches message marker [p.1402 col.1 2nd paragraph "annotation icon"].

As per claim 10, Rangan does not specifically disclose a data conference manager for managing data conference. Maeno disclose a teleconferencing integrating data and video conferencing. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a data conference manager with Rangan's system because it would enable participants to view and process multimedia documents simultaneously with voice + video conferencing [Maeno p.0522 col.1 first paragraph].

It is apparent in the system as modified that the conference recorder would record audio, video and data during the conference.

As per claim 11, Maeno teaches data capture tool, annotating shared data [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph].

As per claims 12-13, Rangan teaches conference recorder [p.1401 "Video File Server"]. It is apparent that the mail system would have storage for multimedia document such that it can be retrieve by a participant and information can be transfer between the mail system, conference recorder, and the multimedia document [Rangan p.1402].

As per claim 14, Rangan teaches AV file system for storing and retrieving audio video images [p.1401 "Video File Server"].

As per claim 15, Rangan teaches depository being operable to receive and store multimedia mail messages under direction of the preparing participant [p.1401 "Video File Server"]

As per claim 16, Rangan teaches audio, video and data components [p.1402 col.1 first paragraph].

As per claim 17, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claims 5+10 above.

As per claim 18, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 28 below.

As per claim 19, Rangan teaches [p.1402 col.1 2nd paragraph] AV signal carried in either analog [video rope] or digital signal [digitized video frame].

As per claim 20, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claims 5+10 above. Maeno teaches data capture tool, annotating captured data [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph].

As per claims 21, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 4 above.

As per claim 22, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 5 above.

As per claim 23, Rangan teaches message marker [p.1402 col.1 2nd paragraph "annotation icon"].

As per claim 25, Rangan teaches conference recorder [p.1401 "Video File Server"]. It is apparent that the mail system would have storage for multimedia document such that it can be retrieve by a participant and information can be transfer between the mail system, conference recorder, and the multimedia document [Rangan p.1402].

As per claim 26, Maeno teaches data capture tool, annotating shared data [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph].

As per claim 27, Rangan and Maeno teach storing and retrieving multimedia document [Rangan p.1401 col.2 lines 8-10, Maeno p.0522 col.1 last paragraph].

As per claim 28, Rangan teaches a method of conducting teleconference, comprising the steps of:

carrying AV signal among the workstations [apparent from fig.1];

managing a videoconference [p.1397]; and

storing, as a multimedia mail message [multimedia document], AV signals generated at the workstation of a preparing participant [p.1401 col.2 lines 2-10]; and

recording AV signal during videoconferencing [p.1401 col.2 line 5 "participant can store parts of their conference"];

storing, as a multimedia mail message [col.1 p.1402 last paragraph], data and AV signal during the conference [p.1401 col.2 lines 2-10 "multimedia document"] and forwarding multimedia



mail to a receiving participant [apparent function of an e-mail facility].

Rangan does not specifically disclose a managing data conference. Maeno disclose a teleconferencing integrating data and video conferencing. Maeno teaches data conference capture and annotation tools [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph]. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a data conference manager with Rangan's system because it would enable participants to view and process multimedia documents simultaneously with voice + video conferencing [Maeno p.0522 col.1 first paragraph].

As per claim 29, Rangan teaches a teleconference system comprising:

teleconference manager [p.1396 fig.1 CM server]

multimedia servers ['video file server'] in communication with the teleconference manager;

storage medium configured to receive and store the communication data [optical disk].

Rangan does not specifically disclose a managing data conference. Maeno disclose a teleconferencing integrating data and video conferencing. Maeno teaches data conference capture and annotation tools [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph]. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a data conference manager with Rangan's system because it would

enable participants to view and process multimedia documents simultaneously with voice + video conferencing [Maeno p.0522 col.1 first paragraph].

As per claim 30, Rangan teaches sharing audio and video among the participant [p.1402 col.1 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph]. Maeno teaches sharing data signal [documents].

As per claim 31, it is apparent from the system as modified that communication data stored comprises audio, video and data.

As per claim 32, Rangan teaches AV capture tools [p.1401 col.2]. Maeno teaches data capture and annotation during a conference [p.0522 col.2].

As per claim 33, Maeno teach using capture and annotation tool to generate multimedia document capable of being stored in real-time [p.0522 col.1 last paragraph to of col.2].

As per claim 34, Rangan teaches using the system as a multimedia mail [p.1402 col.1 last paragraph]. It is inherent that the multimedia mail can be collaborated in real time at different location (conference call), at different time at same location (mail self-addressed to the author or the workstation), and at different time at different location (mail to another user).

As per claim 35, Rangan does not disclose graphical animation device for generating animated graphic images to be included in a multimedia message. It is well known in the art to

have animation graphic images in multimedia document. The type of media included in a multimedia mail would have been a matter of design choice dependent on the preference of the user composing the mail message.

Maeno discloses adding annotation and handwriting can be add in real-time to the multimedia document [p. 0522 col.1 last paragraph: writing pad, mouse cursor manipulation]. These tools read on the graphical animation as claimed because the annotation and handwriting would be 'animated' on the receiver's workstation in order to display them in real-time.

As per claim 36, Rangan teaches message marker [p.1402 col.1 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph "annotation maker"].

Claims 8-9 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Rangan and Maeno, and further in view of Rosenbaum US patent 5,404,435.

As per claims 8-9, Rangan does not teach tag searcher for searching defined tag in multimedia mail message. Rosenbaum teaches a multimedia document system with searchable tags to enable retrieval of the whole or portion of the multimedia document. Hence, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Rosenbaum with Rangan and thereby arrives at the claimed invention.

As per claim 24, it is rejected under similar rationale as for claim 8 above.

Serial Number: 08/659,949  
Art Unit: 2756

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-9655. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Asta can be reached at (703) 305-3817.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

**Any response to this final action should be mailed to:**

**Box AF**


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")

(703) 308-5359 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

  
Dung Dinh  
Patent Examiner  
November 20, 1998